

**Connecticut Department of Transportation
State Project No. 148-200
Relocation of the Northbound On-Ramp
To Route 15 at Interchange 65
Town of Wallingford
Public Informational Meeting Held at
Wallingford Town Hall, Room #315
45 South Main Street, Wallingford, CT
Tuesday, December 3, 2013**

Minutes

Presentation:

- ⇒ There were approximately 16 attendees, including Mr. Robert Baltramaitis, the Assistant Town Engineer for the town of Wallingford (Town) and approximately two employees from Amphenol.
- ⇒ A colored plan of the proposed improvements was displayed. The Department of Transportation (Department) presented the Preliminary Design proposal to the attendees, including a detailed explanation of the crash history at this location.
- ⇒ The primary purpose of this project is to enhance the safety and reduce congestion at the interchange. The new design will eliminate the existing stop sign controlled entrance ramp condition, improve safety, and increase capacity on River Road. The following improvements are proposed:
 - Construct a more conventional at-grade on-ramp immediately east of the northern parapet of the bridge carrying Route 150 over Route 15.
 - The existing stop controlled on-ramp will be removed once the proposed conventional at-grade on-ramp is completed.
 - Route 150 will be widened to provide a right-turn lane onto the proposed on-ramp.
 - River Road will be widened to accommodate the extension of the existing northbound left-turn lane.
 - The existing sidewalk on the south side of the Route 150 bridge over Route 15 will be removed to accommodate the addition of a left-turn lane onto the proposed on-ramp.
- ⇒ A sliver acquisition, slope easement, and temporary work area will be required from Community Lake Park. The public was made aware that the park is eligible for preservation under Section 4(f) of the 1966 DOT Act and that they have the right to comment on the impacts for up to two weeks after the meeting. Since these impacts will not alter the current use of the park, a de minimis determination is expected.
- ⇒ Minor drainage and overhead utility impacts are expected.
- ⇒ The estimated cost of the project is \$4.3 million which will be 90% Federally funded and 10% State funded.
- ⇒ Construction is anticipated to begin in spring 2016 based on the availability of funding.
- ⇒ Mr. Robert Ike, the Department's Supervising Property Agent, outlined the right-of-way process for this project.
- ⇒ Mr. Robert Baltramaitis spoke on behalf of the Town in support of the project.

Public Comments and Questions:

- ⇒ A resident expressed concerns about the noise during construction. The Department explained that there are no anticipated construction activities that will be excessively loud. It is anticipated that noise due to construction would have minimal impacts since the residence is a block away from the project site.
- ⇒ A resident inquired if there are any anticipated permits required for the project. The Department explained that neither an inland wetland permit nor a floodplain permit are anticipated, however a stormwater discharge permit will be required.
- ⇒ An employee of Amphenol asked how long the temporary work area will be needed on the Community Lake Park parking lot for the construction of the retaining wall. The Department anticipates at least two (2) months will be needed however this is still a preliminary estimate. A more precise timeline will be determined later in the design process.
- ⇒ A resident asked whether the proposed traffic signals at Masonic Avenue and the new on-ramp location would create a similar congestion issue that exists currently on River Road at the existing on-ramp. The Department explained that the synchronization of the three (3) traffic signals within the project limits will help to alleviate congestion. It was also noted that relocating the existing on-ramp will greatly increase the efficiency of the intersection.
- ⇒ A resident inquired about the impact resulting from the widening of Route 150 on the westbound approach to the slope of the Community Lake Park driveway. The Department responded that the driveway will be graded as necessary to maintain proper slope for vehicles exiting and entering the driveway.
- ⇒ A resident expressed concerns that a vehicle waiting to turn left onto Masonic Avenue will cause a backup on Route 150. The Department explained that the proposed design includes the addition of a left-turn lane on westbound Route 150 at this intersection to accommodate left-turning vehicles.
- ⇒ A resident inquired whether the existing stop-controlled intersection at River Road and the northbound exit 65 off-ramp will continue to be congested after construction of the project is completed. The Department explained that the removal of the existing on-ramp will greatly alleviate the congestion currently being experienced and will improve the operation of this intersection.
- ⇒ The design schedule was outlined by the Department, citing the two week comment period followed by design approval and the rights-of-way process. The Department indicated that residents could obtain information on the status of the project by contacting the town of Wallingford's Engineering Department as the latter will be included in future plan reviews.

Adjournment: In general, the project was well received by the residents. The vast majority of the concerns raised in the informal presentation regarding the operation of the proposed design were resolved by the end of the formal presentation. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.